

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 29-50 are pending, in which no claims are canceled, withdrawn, currently amended, or newly presented. No new matter is introduced.

The final Office Action mailed April 18, 2007 rejected claims 29-31, and 33-49 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on *Anderson et al.* (US 2002/0091572) in view of *Welton* (US 6,581,827), and claims 32 and 50 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on *Anderson et al.* (US 2002/0091572) in view of *Welton* (US 6,581,827) and further in view of *Ryoo* (US 6,793,135).

The Examiner admits that *Anderson et al.* fails to teach a plurality of services being offered by a plurality of service providers, as claimed. Thus, the Examiner relies on *Welton* to supply this alleged teaching regarding claims 29-31 and 33-49. *Welton* is also relied on for the rejection of claims 32 and 50. However, *Welton* is not a viable reference under any section of 35 U.S.C. § 102. *Welton* has a patent date of Jun. 24, 2003, with an earliest effective filing date of Aug. 24, 2001. But the present application was filed on Jun. 1, 2001, almost three months prior to the earliest effective filing date of *Welton*. Accordingly, *Welton* is not an effective reference against the present claims regardless of what it teaches or does not teach.

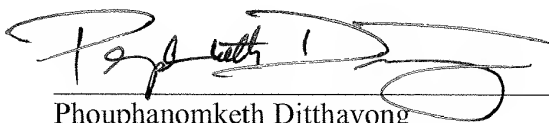
Therefore, since *Welton* is relied on in each of the outstanding rejections, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 are improper, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections and pass this application to issue.

Therefore, the present application, as amended, overcomes the rejections of record and is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested. If any unresolved issues remain, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney at (703) 519-9952 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Date


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